

Amendment
Serial No. 10/671,218

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1-18 stand rejected. Claims 1 and 10 are independent claim.

Claims 1 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Blahut *et al.* (U.S. 6,778,550) (Blahut).

Claim 1 recites a subscriber optical distributor comprising "a broadcasting/telecommunications signal distributor configured to receive the electrical broadcasting-telecommunications signal, configured to separate the received, electrical broadcasting-telecommunications signal into a separate broadcasting signal and a separate telecommunications signal, and configured to output the separated broadcasting signal and the separated telecommunications signal to separate destinations."

Claim 10 recites a method for optical transmission network comprising "separating the received, electrical broadcasting-telecommunications signal into a separate broadcasting signal and a separate telecommunications signal; [and] outputting the separated broadcasting signal and the separated telecommunication signal to separate destinations."

The support can be found in FIG. 4.

According to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, a claim is anticipated only if a single prior art reference set forth each and every feature recited in the claim (*Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

In rejecting claim 1, the Patent Office indicates that the broadcasting/telecommunications signal distributor of the present invention is set forth by the Video Interface 508 and the Telephone Interface 509 of Blahut (the present Office Action, page 3).

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Blahut, as read by the Applicant, discloses a TDM communication apparatus. The ONU contained in the apparatus comprises a frame detector 505; a bus 506; an Ethernet Interface 507; a Video Interface 508; and a Telephone Interface 509 (FIG. 5). In addition, the apparatus comprises an ATM bus 506 that connects each of the Ethernet Interface 507, the Video Interface 508, and the Telephone Interface 509 to the frame detector 505 (column 11, line 53-57).

According to Blahut, each of the Ethernet Interface 507, the Video Interface 508, and the Telephone Interface 509 receives the downstream data from the frame detector 505 via the bus 506 (see *id.*, line 55-61). Thereafter, each “interface then determines from those [received downstream data], which [of the subset of the downstream data] it should receive,” and passes through only the particular data it should receive (*id.* at line 57-61).

However, none of the interfaces disclosed in Blahut is configured to “separate the received, electrical broadcasting-telecommunications signal into a separate broadcasting signal and a separate telecommunications signal, and configured to output the separated broadcasting signal and the separated telecommunications signal to separate destinations,” as does the broadcasting/telecommunications signal distributor of claim 1.

Moreover, Blahut fails to set forth or anticipate a method for providing a broadcasting-telecommunications convergence service, the method comprising “separating the received, electrical broadcasting-telecommunications signal into a separate broadcasting signal and a separate telecommunications signal; [and] outputting the separated broadcasting signal and the separated telecommunication signal to separate destinations,” as recited in claim 10.

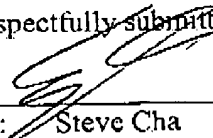
The Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection on both claims.

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Other claims in this application are each dependent on the independent claims 1 and 10, and are believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that there are any issues which may be best resolved by telephone, please contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


By: Steve Cha
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,069

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Mail all correspondence to:
Steve Cha, Registration No. 44,069
Cha & Reiter
210 Route 4 East, #103
Paramus, NJ 07652
Tel: 201-226-9245
Fax: 201-226-9246